Joe Giarrusso called before U.S. grand jury

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Former Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso, said by two pinball operators to have received $30,000 in bribes while in office, was called before a federal grand jury today.

Giarrusso, accompanied by attorneys Milton Brener and Herbert Garon, arrived at the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission building shortly before 10 a.m.

He appeared before the jury from 11:40 to 12:40 and then conferred with his attorneys in a nearby room while the jury took a luncheon break.

Prior to his appearance, the former police chief sat in the hallway while the jury heard five other cases and lawyer Joseph Boyd, who was called in to produce records subpoenaed for the hearings in the pinball bribery case against Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

The accusations against Giarrusso were made late last month by Lawrence Lagarde Sr. and John Elms Jr., of TAC Amusement Co., while testifying at the trial of Garrison and pinball executives John Aruns Callery and Robert Nims.

Both Lagarde and Elms testified they paid Giarrusso $30,000 in six installments of $5,000 each, beginning in December, 1968. They also said Elms' father, John Elms Sr., before his death in September 1968, said he had a $5,000 quarterly obligation to Giarrusso.

Giarrusso has denied the charges.

While waiting to appear before the grand jury today, his attorneys said no statement would be made.